Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-05 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 IO-14 /118 W

-----119834 100209Z /64

R 091118Z DEC 77 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2675 INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS CAIRO 20828

E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ECIN, EG, SU

SUBJ: EGYPT-SUDANESE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

- 1. GOE AND GOS REPORTEDLY ISSUED DECEMBER 8 JOINT COMMUNI-QUE ON SUBJECT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. COMMUNI-QUE, SIGNED BY GOE MINTRADE/SUPPLY TEWFIK AND GOS MINTRADE/SUPPLY AL-AWAD, CONTAINED FIVE POINTS MUTUALLY AGREED AND BEING IMPLEMENTED: (A) DESIGNATION OF AIR TRANSPORT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AS INTERNAL FLIGHTS, THUS LEADING TO LOWER AIR FARES; (B) DECREASE OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON LIVE-STOCK AND MEAT IMPORTS FROM SUDAN; (C) SETTLEMENT OF RESTITUTION QUESTIONS ON NATIONALIZED EGYPTIAN HOLDINGS IN SUDAN; (D) EXEMPTION OF SUDANESE ARRIVING IN EGYPT FROM REQUIRED CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY TRANSFER; AND (E) CONSOLIDATION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL BANKS OF EGYPT AND SUDAN.
- 2. MINISTER TEWFIK SAID OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED ARE CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY. THESE INCLUDE MEASURES CONCERNING AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION, INVESTMENT GUARANTEES, ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT VENTURE COMPANIES UNCLASSIFIED

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AND RECIPROCAL CUSTOMS REBATES.

3. OTHER PROPOSALS REPORTEDLY TO BE PUT FORWARD BY GOE WOULD EXEMPT EGYPTIANS FROM CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS UPON ARRIVAL IN SUDAN AND ESTABLISH STUDY GROUP TO SEEK MEANS FOR EXPANSION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT. SUDANESE ARE EXPECTED TO RAISE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDED PROGRAMS FOR

TRAINING IN TRADE AND FINANCE, ACCORDING PRESS. BOTH MINISTERS HAILED BILATERAL COOPERATION AND ONGOING DISCUSSIONS AS STEP TOWARD ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. MINTRADE AL-AWAD REPORTEDLY TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT OF SUDAN FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECENT PEACE INITIATIVES. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO20828
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770459-0879

Format: TEL From: CAIRO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1 Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771274/aaaaclaf.tel

Line Count: 68 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 92a62308-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:**

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 298730 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EGYPT-SUDANESE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

TAGS: ECIN, EG, SU

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/92a62308-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009